IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please change the title to "METHOD FOR ACCESSING FILES IN A DATA STORAGE SYSTEM".
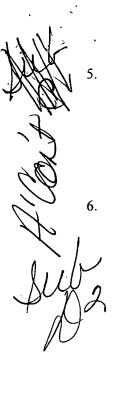
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Amended) A method for indexing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the method comprising the steps of:

   (a)   defining in the computer system [a] at least one list of at least one pre-defined category description;

   (b)   accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description selected from [the] at least one defined list [of at least one category description];

   (c)   storing in the data storage system, separately from the file, a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file.

2.   (Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from [a] at least one defined list of at least one pre-defined category description, the method comprising the steps of:

   (a)   displaying [the] at least one defined list of at least one pre-defined category description;

   (b)   accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] at least one defined list [of at least one category description];

   (c)   disabling in the computer system [selection] selectability of all category descriptions in [the] each displayed defined list [of at least one category description] that would not provide a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter.

3. (Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from [a] at least one defined list of at least one pre-defined category description, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying [the] at least one defined list of at least one pre-defined category description;

(b) accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] at least one defined list [of at least one category description];

(c) searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the [at least one] category [description] descriptions of the defined search filter;

(d) displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match [the at least one] each category description of the defined search filter.

4.   (Amended)   A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   defining in the computer system [a] <u>at least one</u> list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description;

(b)   accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description from [the] <u>at least one defined</u> list [of at least one category description];

(c)   storing in the data storage system a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file;

(d)   displaying [the] <u>each</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(e)   accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] <u>at least one displayed</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(f)   searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the [at least one] category [description] <u>descriptions</u> of the defined search filter;

(g)   displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match [the at least one] <u>each</u> category description of the defined search filter.

5. (Amended) The method for accessing files of claims 3 or 4, further including the step of:

(a)   disabling in the computer system [[selection]] selectability of all category descriptions in [the] each displayed list [of at least one category description] that would not provide a logical match to the category descriptions of the defined search filter.

6. (Amended) The method for accessing files of claims 3 or 4, further including the steps of:

(a)   accepting user input selecting at least one file from the displayed file names;

(b)   accessing [the at least one] each selected file on the data storage system using the file location information from the file record associated with [the at least one] each corresponding selected file.

7. (Amended) A method for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a)   creating in the computer system a category table containing at least one category;

    (b)   creating in the computer system a file information directory comprising at least one entry corresponding to [one] a file on the data storage system, each entry comprising at least a unique file identifier for the corresponding file, and a [countable] set of categories selected from the category table; and

    (c)   creating in the computer system a search filter comprising a [countable] set of [file identifiers] categories, wherein for each [file identifier] category in the search filter there is guaranteed to be at least one entry in the file information directory having a [countable] set of categories matching the [countable] set of categories of the search filter.

15. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim 13, wherein each category comprises a user defined category name and a unique category identifier created by the computer system, and further including the step of displaying the name of each file in the file information directory having category identifiers matching [to] the category identifiers of the categories in the search filter.

16. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

    (1)   selecting one of the displayed file names; and

    (2)   opening the file corresponding to the selected file name [step of opening a file corresponding to a selected one of the displayed file names].

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17. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the step of [opening] selecting a file name comprises the [steps] step of:

     (1)   accepting user input selecting a file from the displayed file names[; and

     (2)   opening the selected file].

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18. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the step of opening a file comprises the [steps] step of:

     (1)   testing if only one file name is displayed, and if so, then opening the file corresponding to that file name.

20. (Amended) A method for accessing files in accordance with Claim 13, wherein the data storage system includes the time of creation of each file, and the step of creating a search filter further comprises the steps of:

     (1)   accepting user input [selecting] defining a time range to limit matching to only those entries in the file information directory having creation times in the selected time range.

21.   (Amended) A system for indexing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the system comprising:

(a)   means for defining in the computer system [a] <u>at least one</u> list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description;

(b)   means for accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description <u>selected</u> from [the] <u>at least one defined</u> list [of at least one category description];

(c)   means for storing in the data storage system<u>, separately from the file,</u> a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file.

22.   (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from [a] <u>at least one</u> defined list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description, the system comprising:

(a)   means for displaying [the] <u>at least one</u> defined list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description;

(b)   means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] <u>at least one</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(c)   means for disabling in the computer system [selection] <u>selectability</u> of all category descriptions in [the] <u>each</u> displayed <u>defined</u> list [of at least one category description] that would not provide a logical match to the <u>category descriptions of the</u> defined search filter.

23. (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, and stored in the data storage system are file records, one for each selected file, comprising at least the file name, file location information, and at least one associated category description for the selected file, each such category description being selected from [a] <u>at least one</u> defined list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description, the system comprising:

(a) means for displaying [the] <u>at least one</u> defined list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description;

(b) means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] <u>at least one</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(c) means for searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the [at least one] category [description] <u>descriptions</u> of the defined search filter;

(d) means for displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match [the at least one] <u>each</u> category description of the defined search filter.

24.   (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system of a computer system having means for reading and writing data from the data storage system, displaying information, and accepting user input, wherein each file located on the data storage system has a file name, the system comprising:

(a)   means for defining in the computer system [a] <u>at least one</u> list of at least one <u>pre-defined</u> category description;

(b)   means for accepting user input associating with a file at least one category description from [the] <u>at least one defined</u> list [of at least one category description];

(c)   means for storing in the data storage system a file record containing at least the file name, file location information, and the associated category descriptions for the file;

(d)   means for displaying [the] <u>each</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(e)   means for accepting user input defining a search filter of at least one category description selected from [the] <u>at least one displayed</u> defined list [of at least one category description];

(f)   means for searching in the computer system the category descriptions of each stored file record for a logical match to the [at least one] category [description] <u>descriptions</u> of the defined search filter;

(g)   means for displaying the file name of all file records having category descriptions that logically match [the at least one] <u>each</u> category description of the defined search filter.

25.   (Amended) The system for accessing files of claims 23 or 24, further including:

(a)   means for disabling in the computer system [selection] <u>selectability</u> of all category descriptions in [the] <u>each displayed</u> list [of at least one category description] that would not provide a logical match to the <u>category descriptions of the</u> defined search filter.

26.   (Amended) The system for accessing files of claims 23 or 24, further including:

(a)   means for accepting user input selecting at least one file from the displayed file names;

(b)   means for accessing [the at least one] <u>each</u> selected file on the data storage system using the file location information from the file record associated with [the at least one] <u>each</u> <u>corresponding</u> selected file.

27.   (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system comprising:

(a)   a plurality of files in a data storage system;

(b)   a plurality of user-defined categories; [and]

(c)   file association means for associating at least one file with at least one category selected from the plurality of user-defined categories;

(d)   category addition means for adding one or more additional categories to the plurality of user-defined categories; and

(e)   category linking means for linking at least one linking category to at least one linked category, such that if a specific file is associated with a linking category, the user must also associate that specific file with at least one of the linked categories corresponding to the linking category.

Please cancel claims 28 and 29.

30.   (Amended) A system for accessing files in a data storage system as set forth in claim 27 [29], further including a linking reminder activated upon associating a specific file with a linking category, such that the linking reminder provides an indication to the user that the user must associate that file with at least one of the linked categories corresponding to the linking category.